



June is Invasives Awareness Month

Invasive Species Facts

Invasive species contribute to the decline of 46% of the imperiled or endangered species in the U.S.

Invasives can hurt the economy by causing losses in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, clogging waterways and fueling fires.

Their cost to the national economy has been estimated as high as \$137 billion per year, and it is increasing.

**Excerpt from the Spring/Summer 2006
Indiana Chapter Newsletter**



“On a global basis...the two great destroyers of biodiversity are, first, habitat destruction and, second, invasion by exotic species.”

E.O. Wilson in *Strangers in Paradise*, 1997

Purple loosestrife invading a stream bank

ELLEN JACQUART, TNC



Garlic mustard

WHAT IT IS

Garlic mustard was introduced into the United States from Europe in the 1860s. During its first year of growth, the plant forms a low-growing cluster of distinctive kidney-shaped leaves. It grows up to 40 inches tall in its second year, and can be recognized by its 4-petaled, white flowers and triangular stem leaves with toothed edges. Garlic mustard plants produce as many as 3,000 seeds per plant.

WHY WE HATE IT

Garlic mustard uses phytochemical poisons to disrupt native plants' mycorrhizal fungal associations. Tree seedlings are dependent on these mycorrhizal fungi; thus garlic mustard stifles regeneration of hardwood trees. In invaded areas, garlic mustard forms a single-species carpet on the forest floor.

WHAT THE CONSERVANCY IS DOING

The Conservancy uses a combination of methods (herbicide, hand-pulling) to stem the spread of this pervasive pest.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make sure that garlic mustard doesn't invade your wooded areas. Please join the Conservancy or other local land trust on a workday to remove garlic mustard from a preserve. Look for a garlic mustard pull workday in our next newsletter!

The War on Invasive Species

You may be noticing more and more articles on invasive species in the news. In our rivers we now have Asian silver carp, which grow up to 50 pounds and when disturbed by a boat wake literally fly out of the water and hit unsuspecting fishermen. The insidious garlic mustard is now in every county of Indiana, silently and aggressively stealing the forest floor away from our native woodland grasses and flowers. The emerald ash borer, a pretty little metallic green beetle, threatens to eliminate all ash trees from our forests.

Following the lead of other Midwestern states, June is Invasives Awareness Month in Indiana. The goal is to raise awareness of this very troubling issue. You will have many opportunities to participate in activities focused on fighting invasives during June. Workdays, for both The Nature Conservancy and our partners, are listed on pages 12-13.

Invaders are a major threat to the lands and waters the Conservancy is trying to conserve. Working with many partners, we are fighting this battle on several fronts. What follows are examples of some of the projects happening in Indiana.

Invasive Plants on our Land

The first battle is going on in our preserves. Nature Conservancy Stewards are constantly on the lookout for new invasive species that could potentially enter our lands and impact our conservation targets. “Nip them in the bud” is our plan, as eradicating an invasive species becomes increasingly difficult the longer it has been established.

What is The Nature Conservancy Doing?

Stewards are working to control about 20 different invasive plant species, using a variety of tools and techniques to get the job done. We often use several techniques in concert to gang up on these species. For example, our efforts to control the very invasive **garlic mustard** start in the late fall once native plants have gone dormant. The basal rosettes of garlic mustard are evergreen and vulnerable to herbicide, so we can spray them with an herbicide solution* and kill the vast majority of the plants before they get a chance to bloom and set seed. Since we're herbiciding when native plants are dormant, there is very little 'non-target damage'; i.e. damage to the native species. No matter how good our stewards are (and they are very good), some garlic mustard plants survive the fall or winter spraying. We then herbicide

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in the early spring before native wildflowers emerge. The few garlic mustard plants that have survived this onslaught are then hand-pulled in April or May and, if fruit pods have started to form, bagged and removed from the preserve.

Despite this thoroughness, it doesn't always mean the eradication of garlic mustard. At preserves that have been infested for years, the seed bank is often so extensive that many years of treatment still does not result in adequate control of the species. For heavily infested sites, we are pinning our hopes on the development of a biocontrol for garlic mustard. Bernd Blossey at Cornell University has been working with many others since 1998 to find an insect that will provide control of garlic mustard, and some candidates are currently being tested in quarantine in Minnesota. We are watching this work and, once it is proven both effective and safe to non-target organisms, will consider using it as part of our integrated pest management.

Forest Pests and Pathogens Emerald Ash Borer

In the summer of 2002, scientists realized that widespread damage to ash in southern Michigan was caused by an introduced insect from Asia, the emerald ash borer. The pest is thought to have been established in Michigan for at least five years. By the time the beetle was detected in Michigan and adjacent Ontario, it had already infested a large area. Since then it has spread further to sites in Ohio and Indiana, with new populations found recently in Allen, Hamilton, and Marion Counties.

DAVID CAPPAERT, WWW.INSECTIMAGES.ORG



Don't Move Firewood! It Bugs Me!

Emerald ash borers can easily be transported to uninfested areas of Indiana through the movement of infested ash firewood. You can help keep the emerald ash borer from spreading by using local sources of firewood when camping. Do NOT bring firewood from home.

The potential ecological cost of this invader is staggering. Ash trees are important members of deciduous forests, riparian and wetland vegetation in Indiana and across North America and are co-dominants (for example with maples and beeches) in some ecological communities. There are seventeen ash species in North America north of Mexico and it is possible the emerald ash borer will attack them all, although

susceptibility apparently varies among species.

What is The Nature Conservancy Doing?

Through the Conservancy's Global Forest Partnership we are lobbying Congress to increase the money available for research, quarantine, and eradication of this pest.

Christmas Carols and Baseball Bats

Certain songs, and other familiar sounds, stir our deepest emotions. The opening line from "The Christmas Song" is one such phrase. "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire" evokes warmth, comfort and safety even though most of us have never seen an American chestnut tree or roasted chestnuts.

The American chestnut tree was once pervasive in the great eastern forest, from Maine to Florida and North Carolina to Western Tennessee. In a period of only 40 years, this majestic tree was wiped out across its entire range by the chestnut blight. The fungus entered the United States on Asian nursery stock imported to New York around 1900 and was spread by wind, rain, birds and other animals. A few American chestnuts and stump sprouts from trees killed 60 – 80 years ago still persist in the understory of some eastern forests, but for our generation, roasting chestnuts on an open fire is nothing but a comforting phrase.

Another exhilarating sound is the "crack" of a baseball against a wooden bat. This sound is even familiar to people who couldn't care less about baseball. The most popular wood for making baseball bats is White Ash. White Ash is light, durable and strong – qualities that are important not only for baseball bats, but internal furniture parts, cabinets, clothes pins and a multitude of other wood products.

Right now all Ash species are facing the same fate as the American chestnut. A wood boring beetle from Asia, the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) came into the US about 10 years ago on solid wood packing material. Since that time it has spread out across Michigan, Canada, Ohio and Indiana. The EAB appears to kill all members of the Ash Family, since none of our native ashes have any built-in resistance. Worse still, many of the beetle's predators—parasites and diseases that keep EAB populations low in Asia—are not present in North America. Recent efforts to remove and destroy all ash trees in a ½ mile radius around known infestations have proven ineffective. There are still efforts to quarantine areas to slow the spread of the beetle, but over time the dusty purple shades of ash trees in fall may disappear from the Indiana landscape.

DAN SHAVER

Christmas Carols and Baseball Bats can be found in its entirety on the Indiana website: nature.org/indiana

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Invasive Plant Species Found on Conservancy Preserves

Asian bush honeysuckle
Garlic mustard
Japanese stilt grass
Purple loosestrife
Phragmites
Reed canary grass
Sweet clovers
Periwinkle
Winter creeper
Burning bush
Privet
Japanese knotweed
Japanese hops
Oxeye daisy
Autumn olive
Bouncing Bet
Crown Vetch
Tree of heaven
Asian bittersweet
Cattails

Additional Resources for Invasive Species

www.invasivespecies.in.gov
Information on what's happening in
Indiana

www.mipn.org
Midwest Invasive Plant Network;
summary of what's happening in the
Midwest; downloadable 24-page
color brochure on invasive plants in
Midwest

www.inpaws.org/plants.html
Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower
Society website; brochures on
invasive plants in Indiana and
landscaping alternatives

www.pddl.purdue.edu/ppdl/
Virtual Plant and Pest Diagnostic
Lab; help in identifying weeds

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/>
Conservancy's Global Invasive
Species Initiative; information on all
control methods; specific
information on invasive plants

Aquatic Invasives

Invasive species have threatened the Great Lakes and their connected waterways ever since Europeans settled in the region. Since the 1800s, more than 140 exotic aquatic organisms of all types - including plants, fish, algae and mollusks - have become established in the Great Lakes. As human activity has increased in the Great Lakes watershed, the rate of introduction of exotic species has increased. More than one-third of the organisms have been introduced in the past 30 years, a surge coinciding with the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway. As international trade increases, so does the rate of new invasives coming into the Great Lakes.

What is The Nature Conservancy Doing?

Recently, the **Great Lakes Program** of the Conservancy signed an agreement with Notre Dame University to develop the Center for Aquatic Conservation. Dr. David Lodge, recognized around the world as a leader in the science of aquatic invasives, will lead this center. The Great Lakes Program is in the process of hiring an Aquatic Invasives Director who will work directly with Dr. Lodge and other Conservancy staff to take the best science available and apply it both to policy and on-the-ground management of aquatic systems. The Indiana Chapter has been collaborating in this partnership from its beginnings, and will assist in connecting the Great Lakes Program and the University of Notre Dame researchers to on-the-ground opportunities for applied aquatic invasive research.

Invasive Plants in Horticulture

One of the frustrations of stewardship is the amount of effort spent controlling invasive plant species in our preserves that are still popularly planted by landowners. Just when you think you've won the battle, a new privet hedge is planted next door! It is estimated that roughly 60% of the invasive plant species threatening our natural areas were deliberate introductions for landscaping, wildlife habitat, or erosion control.

What is The Nature Conservancy Doing?

Five years ago a group of Indiana land managers started talking to nursery owners and landscape architects. Out of these conversations came the Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group (IPSAWG), a collaborative effort by many organizations to better define which horticultural species are invasive in Indiana and to develop recommendations for the use of these species. About 25 species have been assessed and recommendations developed (visit www.invasivespecies.in.gov to learn more). The Conservancy just received funding from the Urban Forest Conservation Fund to develop and print educational materials to let the public know which species to avoid, as well as great non-invasive alternatives to plant instead.



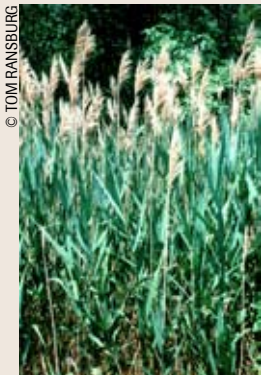
Asian bush honeysuckle

Invasive species, if left unchecked, will limit many uses on lands now and for future generations. Invasive species can harm the natural heritage of our wetlands, prairies, forests, lakes, and rivers. Invasive species can decrease your ability to enjoy hunting, fishing, mushroom collecting, bird watching, and other recreational pursuits. The longer we wait, the more expensive it will be to control invasive species.

Invasive Plants in the Midwest

A few years ago, representatives of each Conservancy chapter in the Midwest gathered to discuss the threat of invasive species to our mission and come up with suggestions on how we could better fight the threat. One theme was repeated over and over by staff; there was a great need for a regional organization that would link together the Midwestern states on this issue, facilitating the sharing of both lessons learned at the local level and the potential for regional level collaboration on projects. Other Midwest agencies and organizations were seeing this same need, and through cooperation of many partners the Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN) was born. MIPN's mission is to reduce the impact of invasive plant species in the Midwest.

What is The Nature Conservancy Doing?



© TOM RANSBURG

To assure that the Midwest Invasive Plant Network became a successful organization, the Indiana Chapter raised funds to hire a coordinator for the group in 2004. The coordinator for this group, Kate Howe, is a Conservancy employee housed in the Indiana Field Office. A board of directors from across the Midwest is in place, representing state and federal agencies, researchers, green industry, and land managers. Eventually, the Network is intended to spin off from the Conservancy as an independent organization.

Phragmites, also known as common reed



Why Should I Care About Invasive Plants Brochure

MIPN has recently published a 24-page color brochure on invasive plants in the Midwest. A downloadable PDF of the brochure is available from their website: www.mipn.org

MIPN is currently working on developing three new products on invasive plants:

- A field guide to invasive plants in the Midwest, including color photographs, identification information, threats posed by each species, and range maps indicating where each species is currently present. The guide will also include some general information on control methods and

resources for more information.

- A brochure on new invaders to watch for. The brochure will highlight some recent arrivals to the Midwest that have the potential to be highly invasive in our region's natural areas.
- Planting alternatives for invasive species. This brochure will provide native or non-invasive alternatives to invasive plants commonly used in landscaping. This information is intended to help consumers make smart choices when purchasing plants for their yards and properties.

These publications will be available at no cost to MIPN members. Join today (it's also free) by visiting www.mipn.org.



Purple loosestrife

Purple loosestrife is easily recognized by its purple to magenta flowers composed of 5 to 6 petals, and its square stems. This species was introduced as an ornamental from Europe, where it is a minor component of wetland vegetation. Here in North America, purple loosestrife has escaped cultivation and is abundant in wetlands and other wet areas (streambanks, lakeshores, and ditches) in almost every state in the U.S. Purple loosestrife forms dense single-species stands that cause a decline in plant diversity and affect wildlife by reducing food and habitat for waterfowl and spawning grounds for fish. A single plant can produce 2.5 million seeds annually, and these seeds can be transported great distances by humans, animals, water, and wind.

Stewardship Work Days

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Kankakee Sands Project, Newton County

**8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Chicago time)
9 a.m. to noon (Indianapolis time)**

Sweet clover is a pesky biennial weed of native prairies. Come help pull both white and yellow clovers from Beaver Lake Prairie, which is not normally open for visitation. Beaver Lake Prairie is a 640-acre sand prairie, managed by the Division of Nature Preserves. It is a keystone to the success of the Greater Kankakee Sands Area.

Prairies lack trees, so bring a hat and water. We will hike and enjoy the sights of this forbidden prairie after the workday. Meet 1/4 mile east of the corner of CR 600 N and CR 200 W.

RSVP/More Info: Gus Nyberg at (219) 285-2184 or gnyberg@tnc.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Burr Oak Bend, Hamilton County

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

Come see the progress of the Central Indiana Land Trust's prairie and riparian forest restoration at this 128-acre preserve located along the White River while removing garlic mustard and litter.

RSVP/More Info: Central Indiana Land Trust at (317) 631-5263 or info@cilti.org. Directions sent upon receipt of RSVP.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Fish Creek Fen, LaPorte County

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

We will be cutting cattails that have invaded the high quality portions of the fen. Please bring at least knee high waterproof boots and pruning shears. Bug repellent, sunscreen, water and a sack lunch are also recommended.

Directions: From the town of North Liberty in St. Joseph County, take Highway 4 west out of town. Just before the town of Fish Lake, turn north on CR 925 E. This will dead-end into CR 200 S. Turn left onto CR 200 S. Just after you cross the railroad tracks (about 1 mile), you will see a small gravel pull-off on the north side of the road. We will meet there.

RSVP/More Info: Matt Williams at mwilliams@tnc.org



Russian olive

JOHN M. RANDALL, TNC

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Muscatatuck Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Jackson County

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

Join Refuge staff in the effort to rid the Refuge of the recent invader Japanese stiltgrass. Hand tools and lunch will be provided, but please bring work gloves and water.

We will meet at the Refuge Visitor Center. The main entrance to the Refuge is a few miles east of I-65 on Highway 50. Follow the entrance road approximately 1/2 mile. The Visitor Center will be on the right. RSVPs appreciated.

RSVP/More Info: Theresa Dailey, (812) 522-4352 or theresa_dailey@fws.gov

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Buena Vista Glades, Harrison County

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

We will be clearing the alien invasive shrub autumn olive. After the workday we may take a hike at nearby Teeple Glade to view the impressive coneflower display. Bring gloves and loppers, if you have them. Water and a lunch are also recommended.

Meet in Elizabeth at the 4-way stop. To reach Elizabeth take I-64 to Georgetown Exit #118. Travel east on Hwy 62 to Hwy 11, bear left. Follow Hwy 11 south to the 4-way stop sign intersection in Elizabeth. RSVPs appreciated.

RSVP/More Info: Bonnie Wolf at (812) 972-1506 or bwolf@tnc.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Lieber State Recreation Area, Putnam County

2 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

Learn about "The Invasion of The Emerald Ash Borer". What is it? What does it do? Where did it come from? Join our staff in helping prevent the spread of the EAB.

Meet at the Pool at Lieber State Recreation Area, located just off US 231 south of Cloverdale.

RSVP/More Info: Vicki Albietz at (765) 795-3552.

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

Monroe County Public Library, Monroe County

7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

Invasive Plants--How to Fight Back. Learn which invasives threaten our forests in southern Indiana and tools and techniques you can use to control them. Sponsored by the South Central Chapter of the Indiana Native Plant & Wildflower Society. Held in the Monroe County Library's auditorium in Bloomington.

For directions, visit www.monroe.lib.in.us/

RSVP/More Info: Ellen Jacquart at (317) 951-8818 or ejacquart@tnc.org.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

Wellfield Botanic Gardens, Elkhart County

8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Indianapolis time)

Dig, Dig, Dig. Come out for a great morning workout and help dig up invasive woodies from the oak savanna. Bring gloves and a round point shovel.

Wellfield is located at 1011 North Main Street in Elkhart, one block south of the stoplight at North Main and Bristol Street (SR 19).

RSVP/More Info: Eric Amt at (574) 266-2006 or e.amt@wellfieldgardens.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

Muscatatuck Nat'l Wildlife Refuge, Jackson County

2 p.m. to 3 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

Come to the Refuge's Conservation Learning Center to hear a presentation on invasive plants found on the Refuge and what's being done to control them.

The main entrance to the Refuge is a few miles east of I-65 on Highway 50. Follow the entrance road approximately 1/2 mile. The Visitor Center/Conservation Learning Center will be on the right.

RSVP/More Info: Theresa Dailey, (812) 522-4352 or theresa_dailey@fws.gov

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

Fawn River Fen, Lagrange County

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

We will be using shovels to slice the root of musk thistle, a weed that is taking up too much space for our prairie grasses to get fully established. Bring gloves, hat, and appropriate footwear (rubber boots optimal) for our hike through the fen. Also please bring lunch, water and a shovel or spade with a sharp edge if you have one.

Due to the fragility of the site, Fawn River Fen is not open to the public. Directions to the site will be provided upon receiving RSVP.

RSVP/More Info: Crystal Rehder at (260) 316-0868 or crehder@tnc.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

Kankakee Sands Project, Newton County

**9 a.m. to noon (Chicago time)
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Indianapolis time)**

We will be showing off our strength and taking out our aggressions by pulling some common mullein from the prairie restoration. Leather gloves and water are definitely recommended.

We will be taking a walk through the prairie following the workday. If you plan to hike, please bring a lunch. Meet at the Conservancy office, located at 3294 N U.S. 41, 2 miles north of Enos.

RSVP/More Info: Andrea Locke at (219) 285-2184 or alocke@tnc.org

SATURDAY, JULY 1

Lake Griffy Monroe County

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

"Invasives! Aliens!" Learn about invasive species and threats to the ecology of Lake Griffy. This is a partnership event between the Sycamore Land Trust and Bloomington Parks and Recreation and is free to the public. Please bring a lunch.

Meet at the Lake Griffy boathouse. After lecture and lunch, anyone interested can help remove exotic plants. RSVPs appreciated.

RSVP/More Info: Sycamore Land Trust (812) 336-5382 or sycamore@bloomington.in.us.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Mosquito Creek Woods Harrison County

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

The Sierra Club has organized a service trip to Mosquito Creek Woods, working to clear the invasive Tree of Heaven. After lunch we will hike the nearby glades. Bring gloves, loppers and/or bow saw. Water and lunch are also recommended. RSVPs required.

RSVP/More Info: Joe Bina or Panaena Rue at (812) 923-6974 or Bonnie Wolf at (812) 972-1506 or bwolf@tnc.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Kankakee Sands Project, Newton County

**9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Chicago time)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Indianapolis time)**

It's time to reap the rewards of the many weeks that were spent planting, watering and weeding the wildflower beds at our native plant nursery. Come join in the joyous job of collecting native flower and grass seeds. We will provide collection bags and clippers.

You may want to bring work gloves, a hat and a lunch. Meet at the Kankakee Sands Nursery, located on CR 250 N, across from North Newton High School. RSVPs appreciated.

RSVP/More Info: Alyssa Nyberg, (219) 285-2184 or anyberg@tnc.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Stoner Hills Glades, Harrison County

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

Be prepared for a steep hike as we eradicate tree of heaven from the hollows. This is your chance to see Stoner Hill—a preserve not normally open to the public. Bring gloves, water and a lunch

Meet in Elizabeth at the 4-way stop. To reach Elizabeth take I-64 to Georgetown Exit #118. Travel east on Hwy 62 to Hwy 11, bear left. Follow Hwy 11 south to the 4-way stop sign intersection in Elizabeth. RSVPs appreciated but not necessary.

RSVP/More Info: Bonnie Wolf at (812) 972-1506 or bwolf@tnc.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Mosquito Creek Woods, Harrison County

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

We need your help building fire breaks. In addition to clearing leaves, we will be clearing dead trees from the edge of the fire line. Please bring gloves, a chainsaw or sturdy rakes if you have them. Please bring lunch and water also.

Meet at the General Store at the intersection of IN-11 and E. Laconia Rd. in the town of Laconia. RSVPs appreciated.

RSVP/More Info: Bonnie Wolf at (812) 972-1506 or bwolf@tnc.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14

Kankakee Sands Project, Newton County

**9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Chicago time)
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Indianapolis time)**

Fall is definitely in the air this time of the year. Since early spring, native plants have been flowering and setting seed. The bulk of the harvest and seed cleaning happens this time of year. We have thousands of pounds of seed to get ready for planting on the restoration in December. Our staff is dedicated and determined, but sometimes the bounty is, well, very bountiful, so volunteers are very welcome to join us at the seed barn to spend the morning seed cleaning and separating the seed from the chaff and stems. This is achieved through hand sorting and sifting but also through the use of motorized threshers and antique fanning mills. We'll be in a mildly heated barn and will provide dust masks and hot apple cider. Long sleeves and gloves recommended.

Meet at the Conservancy office, located at 3294 N U.S. 41, 2 miles north of Enos. RSVPs appreciated.

RSVP/More Info: Stephanie Frischie at (219) 285-2184 or sfrischie@tnc.org.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Corydon Battle Park, Harrison County

9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

Help DNR staff treat an infestation of English ivy so that native wildflowers, other herbaceous vegetation and tree seedlings have a chance to thrive. In addition to spraying, we will be cutting the vines off tree trunks. Bring gloves, pruners and a hand or backpack sprayer if you have one.

Corydon Battle Park is located on old Hwy 135 on the south edge of Corydon, across from the Old Capitol United Methodist Church. RSVPs appreciated.

RSVP/More Info: Mike Coggeshall at (812) 738-7694 or mcoggeshall@dnr.in.gov

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Kankakee Sands Project, Newton County

**9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Chicago time);
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Indianapolis time)**

As the 2006 growing season winds down, the last step before prairie planting time is to clean the seeds. This involves scrubbing the seed heads against screens and sifting to separate the good from the not-so-good. It's also time to begin sorting and organizing the seeds for planting. This calls for good alphabetization skills and is a neat way to familiarize oneself with the names of many native species. We will be indoors at a mildly-heated barn, so dress warmly. Gloves and long sleeves are a good idea for working with the dry plant material. Please bring a lunch.

Meet at the Conservancy office, located at 3294 N U.S. 41, 2 miles north of Enos. RSVPs recommended.

RSVP/More Info: Stephanie Frischie at (219) 285-2184 or sfrischie@tnc.org

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Cedar Farms, Harrison County

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Indianapolis time)

Clear redbud and help our prairie plants thrive at the creek side glade at Cedar Farms. Bring gloves, water, lunch and loppers if you have them.

Meet at the General Store at the intersection of Hwy. 11 and E. Laconia Road in the town of Laconia. RSVPs appreciated.

RSVP/More Info: Bonnie Wolf at (812) 972-1506 or bwolf@tnc.org.

Fall into Nature Days September 16 and 17, 2006

Every wanted to try fly fishing or kayaking? Is learning how to backpack or be a top-notch outdoor photographer on your list of things you want to do?

Be adventurous and get outdoors with the Indiana Conservation Alliance on September 16th and 17th! This weekend will be a diverse array of outdoor activities all around the state. Encourage your friends and family to get outdoors! Help us build a greater appreciation of Indiana's natural wonders.

Visit nature.org/Indiana for more information or contact Angela Hughes at (317) 951-8818 or ahughes@tnc.org.

Sponsored by the Indiana Conservation Alliance.

Additional Resources for Invasive Species

www.invasivespecies.in.gov

Information on what's happening in Indiana

www.mipn.org

Midwest Invasive Plant Network; summary of what's happening in the Midwest; downloadable 24-page color brochure on invasive plants in Midwest

www.inpaws.org/plants.html

Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society website; brochures on invasive plants in Indiana and landscaping alternatives

www.ppd.l.purdue.edu/ppdl/

Virtual Plant and Pest Diagnostic Lab; help in identifying weeds

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/>

Conservancy's Global Invasive Species Initiative; information on all control methods; specific information on invasive plants

www.nature.org/initiatives/invasivespecies/

General information about invasives.

Questions?

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